

REMARKS

The Office Action dated January 4, 2008 has been received and carefully noted. The above amendments to the claims, and the following remarks, are submitted as a full and complete response thereto.

Rejection under 35 U.S.C. § 112

Claim 33 was rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 112, second paragraph as being indefinite. The Office Action stated that “the word ‘means’ is preceded by the word(s) ‘for’ in an attempt to use a ‘means’ clause to recite a claim element as a means for performing a specified function. However, since no function is specified by the word(s) preceding ‘means’, it is impossible to determine the equivalents of the element” (page 2). Claim 33 is amended herein to more fully comply with the requirements of 35 U.S.C. § 112, second paragraph. Amended claim 33 recites “token distribution means for responding” and “for providing”, as well as “mediation means for mediating”.

In view of the amendments to claim 33, it is respectfully submitted that the rejection is overcome.

Double Patenting

Claims 17-35 are rejected on the grounds of nonstatutory obviousness-type double patenting over various claims of Cao (U.S. Patent No. 6,700,899). In response to the rejections, a Terminal Disclaimer is filed concurrently herewith to overcome the double patenting rejection. Thus, in view of the Terminal Disclaimer, it is respectfully submitted that the double patenting rejection is overcome.

Conclusion

If for any reason the Examiner determines that the application is not now in condition for allowance, it is respectfully requested that the Examiner contact, by telephone, the applicant's undersigned attorney at the indicated telephone number to arrange for an interview to expedite the disposition of this application.

In the event this paper is not being timely filed, the applicant respectfully petitions for an appropriate extension of time. Any fees for such an extension together with any additional fees may be charged to Counsel's Deposit Account 50-2222.

Respectfully submitted,



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Enclosures: Terminal Disclaimer
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